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*United Farmers  
of  
Alberta*

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*Constitution  
and  
By-Laws*

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*ADOPTED BY THE CONVENTION  
January 14th, 1909*



Constitution and By-Laws of the  
**United Farmers of Alberta**

Our Motto "Equity"

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**Constitution**

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1. This Association shall be called the United Farmers of Alberta (our motto "Equity").

2. This Association is not a political party organization nor does it purpose endorsing the policy of any political party nor the candidature of any politician and the objects of the Association shall be—

(1) To forward the interests of the producers of grain and live stock and to obtain profitable prices for all products of the farm and orchard.

(2) To put forth our utmost efforts to secure the building and maintenance of graneries, elevators, warehouses and cold storage warehouses in principal market cities and in all localities where practicable, so that farm produce may be held and controlled for an advantageous price instead of passing into the hands of speculators and combines.

(3) To endeavor to secure legislation relating to the farmers interest and equitable rates of transportation.

(4) To open up new markets and enlarge old ones.

(5) To report crops in this and foreign countries so that farmers may operate intelligently in planting and marketing.

(6) To educate the young men of the nation on their rights, duties and responsibilities so that they may understand the evil effects of vicious legislation upon their calling; to watch legislation affecting public questions and discuss the effect upon the wealth producer.

(7) To endeavor to prevent the adulteration of food and the marketing of same.

(8) To promote social intercourse.

(9) To settle disputes without recourse to law if possible.

(10) To encourage the establishment of an equitable banking system.

(11) To use our influence to secure the improvement of our highways.

(12) To work for the best system of insurance of life, fire and crop, by the government if necessary.

(13) To hold meetings for the discussion of subjects pertaining to the production, varieties of grain and live stock and the best means of marketing the same.

(14) To encourage the establishment of industries which will give the producer greater facilities for marketing his produce.

(15) To obtain by united effort profitable and equitable prices for farm produce.

(16) To suggest to Parliament from time to time as it is found necessary, through duly appointed delegates, the passing of any new legislation to meet changing conditions and requirements.

3. This Association shall consist of a provincial association and local unions; but the annual convention shall have power to arrange for district associations if at any time it is thought necessary.

4. Local unions shall consist of farmers and others accepted into the Association according to its rules and usages. Each local union shall have exclusive use of its own affairs and may adopt special by-laws, subject only to the constitution and the laws enacted thereunder.

5. To organize a local union at

least ten qualified persons may join in a request to be so organized, which request should be made to some local union or authorized organizer, on receipt of which the union or organizer shall proceed to effect such organization and make due report thereof to the Association. Or, not less than ten persons as aforesaid may assemble of their own accord and proceed to organize themselves into a local union by subscribing to this constitution, electing officers therein provided and make due report thereof to the Association.

6. The officers of a local union shall be a president, vice-president, a secretray and a treasurer, or a secretary-treasurer, together with such officers as a union may decide to appoint. The official term shall be one year, and regular elections shall be held in December of each year, by ballot, except that in the case of only one candidate for an office election may be had by acclamation. All officers serve until their successors are elected and qualified.

7. The President shall preside at all meetings, shall maintain due decorum, decide all points of order (subject to appeal) and see that the laws and usages of the Association

are observed and enforced. He shall neither make nor second a motion, nor shall he vote on any question except to give the casting vote in case of a tie, but he shall not be denied the right to vote in the election of officers. He shall fill all official vacancies by appointment pro tem.

8. The vice-president shall assist the president in his duties when called upon, and in the President's absence he shall perform the duties of that station. In case of the absence of both president and vice-president a president pro tem may be chosen by the members present.

9. The secretary shall keep a correct record of all the proceedings of the Union and shall keep carefully compiled statistics thereof, including a complete and correct membership roll showing date of joining, etc., an account with each member showing dues and when paid, and everything necessary to keep a perfect record of each member's relation to the Union. He shall keep all books necessary to the proper discharge of his duties and he shall conduct all official correspondence. He shall collect all fees from members keeping a correct account thereof and paying same over to

the treasurer. He shall be the custodian of all books, papers, etc., belonging to the Union, and shall promptly turn over the same to his successor in office. He shall make all reports required by the Association and shall perform such other duties as may from time to time be required of him. He may be allowed such compensation as the local union may from time to time determine.

10. The treasurer shall have custody of ~~and~~ safely keep all moneys belonging to the Union, keeping a careful account thereof, and he shall pay out no money except on order of the Union attested by warrant signed by the president and secretary. He shall make a complete and itemized report at the close of his term of office and any other time when required by the Union to do so, and he shall promptly turn over all money, books, etc., to his duly qualified successor in office. Before entering upon his duties he shall give good and sufficient bond payable to the Union in such sum as may be fixed by vote of the Union, said bond to be approved by vote of the Union.


11. Local Unions shall meet at least twice each month, if possible, and it shall be the duty of the presi-



dent, vice-president and secretary to see to it that there is an entertaining program or subject for consideration at each meeting. Five regular members must be present for a quorum. The President shall call special meetings at the request of not less than six members, but all regular members residing in the vicinity must be notified of the time and place of such meeting, and the object or objects for which it is called. Provided that the President may call special meetings when he may deem the interest of the Union requires it. At called meetings no business shall be transacted not mentioned in the call, unless five members are present.

12. In case it should be considered desirable to hold an executive session, a doorkeeper may be appointed, whose duty it will be to close the door when required to do so by the President, and to admit none, except members, without the President's permission.

13. Local unions shall have power to deal with their members for offences against the Union, and shall be governed by rules usually applied in such cases. The President shall preside at all trials (unless himself be the defendant) in which



case the vice-president shall preside and the rules of evidence and methods of procedure shall, as near as may be, be the same as those observed in the courts. On conviction, to be determined by a vote of guilty or not guilty, punishment may be reprimand, suspension, or expulsion, also to be determined by a vote, voting first upon the severest penalty. If that fail to carry, then on to the next, and so on until a penalty be fixed. Should no penalty be voted after a conviction, the presiding officer shall administer a mild reprimand and dismiss the case. Suspensions shall not exceed three months and the Association must be notified of expulsion.

14. A member of six months' in arrears shall stand suspended, without action of the Union, but the secretary must report the same to the Association and correct the membership roll. A member suspended for non-payment of dues may be reinstated by the payment of all arrears.

15. Each union has the power to reject any application which they think will make an undesirable member.

16. The Association shall consist of its regular officers, standing com-

mittees and representatives from the local or district unions.

17. The Association shall consist of a president, vice-president and six directors who shall be duly elected delegates from the unions, and who shall hold office until their successors are elected. They shall hold a meeting or meetings in each year on such dates as the President may decide, or at the instance of any three of the Board of Directors.

18. The regular meeting of the Association shall be held annually in January of each year.

19. The executive of the Association is charged with the general work of the Association and is therefore expected to complete and maintain the organization therein. It shall be its duty to take up all the duties coming under the head of the Association.

20. The executive of the Association shall consist of the president, secretary-treasurer and three directors of said Association to be elected by the directors.

21. The annual meeting of the Association shall be held in the last half of January in each year at such place as shall be decided from time to time by the annual meeting. Two

auditors and all officers, except secretary-treasurer shall be elected, the report of the executive officers received and such other business transaction as the meeting decides.

22. The Association year shall end on December 31, and that of the Unions on December 31.

23. Any Farmers' Society or Association can affiliate with the Association and such Society or Association shall be entitled to send one delegate to the annual convention.

24. Any person may become a member of a Union by giving his name and address to the secretary, accompanied by the annual membership fee of not less than one dollar, half of which shall belong to the funds of the Association, such funds to be forwarded quarterly to the secretary-treasurer of the Association.

25. The executive of a Union shall consist of the officers and directors of said Union.

26. Each Union shall hold an annual meeting during the month of December at which all officers shall be elected, the report of the executive officers received, delegates to the Association and an auditor

elected and such other business transacted as the members may decide.

27. Each Union shall be entitled to elect one delegate to the Association for each ten full paid up members, provided such Union is not in arrears to the Association.

28. A Union may hold other meetings at the direction of the president and secretary-treasurer.

29. Not less than five members shall be a quorum to transact business for the Association, not less than five shall be a quorum at an officer's meeting, and not less than three members shall be a quorum at an executive meeting.

30. The officers or members of the executive, or any committee, shall conduct the correspondence, the duties assigned to said officers, executive or committee by the constitution or by-laws, or by the Association when such course is deemed advisable, by said officers, executive or committee.

31. At least four weeks' notice shall be given of each annual or general meeting, naming time and place of meeting. Notice may be given through the public press or by a circular letter mailed to each

member, and in case of the Association to each president and secretary-treasurer of the Unions.

32. An officer's meeting shall be called by mailing at least three weeks before date of meeting to each officer a notice of meeting as above provided.

33. The executive shall frame such by-laws and regulations for its own and the Association's government as are in its judgment for the best interest of the Association and not inconsistent with this constitution.

34. Any member desiring to introduce any addition or amendment to the constitution shall submit a draft thereof to the secretary at least 60 days prior to the date of the regular annual meeting, and the secretary shall forthwith communicate the same to each union by circular letter.

(2) An addition or amendment to the constitution shall require a three-fifths vote of the members present at the annual meeting to pass.

Signed on behalf of the United Farmers of Alberta.

Edward J. Fream,  
Secretary.

P.O. Innisfail.

## General Provisions

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1. The members of the Association are expected to extend fraternal care to one another in sickness, misfortune or distress, and to their families in bereavement, but it is a cardinal principle that he that won't work neither shall he eat. Industrial habits are as important qualifications as any principles of benevolence and charity, we do not require the industrious to lightly bestow their substance upon the shiftless and improvident.

2. All members of this Association are expected to cultivate harmonious relations with every other farmer's association or organization.

3. Members shall favor each other in their business relations and they should never go to law over their differences until all other means of agreement and settlement are exhausted. In all such cases the Association recommends arbitration.

4. Party politics and religious discussions are prohibited. When a Union wishes to take political action the meeting should adjourn.

5. Due decorum must be observed in all the meetings, and presiding officers are given ample power to enforce order. Cushing's and

Robbert's Manuals are held as authorities as parliamentary rules and usages.

6. Every effort should be made to encourage young persons to take part in the exercises and all should regard the meetings as schools of progress and advancement. The members are enjoined to faithfully attend the meetings and to spare no pains to make them profitable and interesting.

7. Co-operation is the great means by which we are to overcome the evil effects of hurtful combinations and members are urged to avail themselves of every opportunity for profitable co-operation with each other, but we should never let this purpose breed a spirit of antagonism between legitimate local interests. Farming is a business, and farmers should not antagonize other legitimate and proper business interests.

8. Controlled marketing is the means in our hands for compelling equitable prices for our products and members should hold it their most sacred duty to strictly adhere to that principle and urge that their neighbors do the same even if not members. Adherence to this principle is a test of good membership, and all are expected to direct their best efforts thereto.



## By-Laws.

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The following shall be the order of business at meetings of the Unions.

1. Call to order by the President.
2. Call the roll of officers and note those present. The President will fill vacancies.
3. Call the roll of members, noting those present.
4. Reading and disposing of the minutes of the previous meeting.
5. Call for application for membership.
6. Does any member know of any case of sickness or distress or death in the neighborhood that needs special attention?
7. Reports of committees and receiving of moneys.
8. Has any member anything he wishes to sell?
9. Does any member wish to employ a hand to work?
10. Does any member wish a job to work or know of a person who does?

11. Have any communications been received of interest to members?

12. Has any person any grievance to report?

13. Will any person propose anything that the Union or any member can do for the good of the Association or Union?

14. What is the condition of the market affecting products of the neighborhood?

15. What are the general crop prospects of the neighborhood?

16. Is there any unfinished business to be attended to?

17. Is there any new business to be taken up at this meeting?

18. Discussion of topics for the good of the farmers, the Union and the Association, after which programme of entertainment.

19. Report to the Association.

20. Adjournment.





Address all communications  
relating to the Association to  
the general secretary

EDWARD J. FREAM,

Innisfail, Alta.

